

Security

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT BY WILLIAM P. CLARK

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

The President today approved three National Security Directives in the following areas:

- Cancellation of certain Presidential Directives from the Carter Administration
- National Security Council Structure
- Protection of Classified National Security Council and Intelligence Information

The cancellation of Presidential Directives rescinds 32 Directives from the Carter Administration. Several of these have been superseded by subsequent Directives. Others are simply no longer relevant.

The Directive on the National Security Council Structure incorporates changes and sets forth specific responsibilities associated with effective operation of the National Security structure. A statement of this Directive is attached.

A new Directive setting forth procedures for the protection of classified National Security Council and Intelligence information is also attached. This Administration is acutely aware that the American people have a right to know, through the free press, what their government is doing so as to render informed judgments of their elected officials.

The President is also aware of his responsibility to lead this nation effectively, guaranteeing the security and welfare of the American people.

Unfortunately, a pattern has developed in recent years that directly hampers the development and implementation of an effective foreign policy for the United States. This pattern has often manifested itself in the unauthorized public disclosure of classified information. In many such cases, the publication of such information rules out a foreign policy option, or jeopardizes

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an ongoing policy.

We fully recognize the paradox inherent in our system, in which a free press is encouraged to collect and print whatever it believes to be in the public interest while the government has the responsibility to protect certain categories of sensitive information. The measures to be taken under this Directive should not be construed as criticism of the press. The press has been doing its job -- collecting information -- better than the government has been doing its job -- protecting national security information. These limited measures are designed to restore a balance that has been lost.

Government employees, media personnel, and the American people should recognize that these measures are clearly necessary in the national interests, and that the end result will be a more effective government.

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